COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE BUDGET SESSION, 1121

Monday, *the* $\frac{\textit{29th July 1946}}{\textit{13th Karkadagam 1121}}$

The Council met in the Council Hall, Ernakulam, at half past Eleven of the Clock with the Hon'ble the President (Sir GEORGE BOAG, K.C.I.E, C.S.I.) in the Chair.

SWEARING IN OF A NEW MEMBER

Mr. P. Sankaran Nambiyar was sworn in.

The following members were present.—

1. Mrs. T. Francis.
2. Rao Bahadur T. S. Narayana Ayyar.
3. Mr. A. Eachara Menon.
4. ,, P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.
5. ,, C. N. Ittiravi Nambudiri.
6. ,, T. K. L. Kunjuvareed.
7. ,, T. V. Kochuvareed.
8. ,, M. O. Thomakutty.
9. ,, P. V. Sebastian.
10. ,, K. A. Raghavan
11. ,, P. E. Warne.
12. ,, S. S. Koder.
13. Dr. S. S. Rao.
14. Mr. Jos. K. Verghese.
15. ,, P. A. Muhamad Ashroff.
16. Rao Sahib P. V. Raphael, Comptroller of Finance and Accounts.
17. Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon, Chief Engineer.
18. Rao Sahib A. Madhava Prabhu, Diwan Peishkar.
19. Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E., Chief Secretary to Government.
20. Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon, Minister for Development.
21. ,, Parambi Lonappen, Minister for Public Health.
22. Rao Sahib C. J. Mathew, Secretary to Government. (Development, etc. Departments)
23. Mr. B. V. K. Menon, Secretary to Government (Finance, etc. Departments)
24. ,, Sivarama Menon, Advocate General.
25. ,, S. Venkateswaran, Conservator of Forests.
26. Rao Sahib M. M. Paul, Director of Food Supplies.
27. Mr. P. Sankaran Nambiyar, Director of Public Instruction.

THE MESSAGE OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA

Mr. President: Hon'ble Members, I have a message from His Highness the Maharaja.—

"The events of the past few months have brought grave issues to the forefront of Indian Politics. The Statements of the Cabinet Delegation and the Viceroy have raised hopes as well as misgivings in the people of this country and more especially so in the Subjects of Indian States. Important constitutional changes are envisaged by those Statements and it is but natural that my Subjects and the Wider Public of India should feel anxious to know my attitude towards these imminent reforms.

I have given deep consideration to these matters and have studied carefully the points of view put forward by various leaders of British India and the States. It is a consolation to know that the integrity of India is not to be broken up and that in framing the future Constitution of India we can proceed on that basis. Personally I have always felt—and nothing that I have read these days has changed my view—that the States are an integral part of India and should therefore act in unison with the British Indian Provinces and for the benefit of the Whole. For if India becomes great, every part of it becomes great and the States too derive the benefit and the glory.

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It would seem that the Scheme of linguistic provinces will be carried out. I am in full agreement with this principle. There is in India no more precise cultural and linguistic unit than Kerala. The people of Kerala are considerably agitated over the question of redistribution of Provinces. Unless a way is found to establish a united Kerala the neighbouring district of Malabar will find itself attached to a Province where culturally it may have to remain a minority. It is good neither for the Province nor for Malabar that it should be so. I have said before that if India becomes great every part of it becomes great. It is equally true that if every part becomes cohesive and strong, it adds to the strength and greatness of India as a whole.

In this context of fateful events and impending changes it has fallen to my lot to direct the destinies of my State. I cannot do it dutifully unless I were to bear in mind the relation of my State and my Subjects to the rest of Kerala. My Subjects are connected in so many intimate ways with the people of Malabar that it is no exaggeration to say that they are as perturbed by the changes foreshadowed above as the latter.

Studying the problem in this setting I have arrived at the definite conclusion that Kerala must unite and be one if it were to save itself from cultural extinction. If we remain as we are our voice in the future Union Government of India will never be heard. It will only be a faint and ineffective murmur. For its own sake and for the good of the Country as a whole Kerala must unite and function as a separate and cohesive unit in the greater Federation of India. In order to achieve this, Malabar, Cochin and Travancore will have to join together and devise ways and means to frame a scheme of Government for the whole of Kerala without destroying the connection of the people to the ancient Ruling Houses. It appears to me this is not difficult if we have the will and the heart to save the culture and integrity of Kerala which was, at one time, being ruled by the common forbear of the ancient Ruling Families, the Cheraman Perumal. Tradition says that the last Perumal in order to avoid internecine strife, divided his territory into three and enjoined the Zamorin and the Cochin and the Travancore Rulers to administer their respective territories without electing a Perumal. If this is true, History cannot provide a more disastrous example of an ill-advised injunction to subordinate Rulers by a Paramount Power. It was the beginning of our troubles. For the thousand years thereafter we have reaped a harvest of misery and quarrels and nothing but that. Is it not time for us to redeem our ancient land from the parlous state into which it has sunk ever since the abolition of the institution of Perumalship? Here is a golden opportunity for us. Another Paramount Power is relinquishing power with the sage advice to unite and be strong. We have, I hope, learned wisdom from our past miseries. We can still get inspiration from our historic past if we care to seek it there. With suitable modifications to fit modern political conceptions the institution of "The Perumal" can be revived and a link with the proud historic past forged. The idea thrills me as it should every Malayalee. There were in those days many an institution in the polity of Malabar worthy of copying today because of the democratic principles on which they were based.

For my part, therefore, and speaking for my State, I am prepared, indeed I earnestly desire, to combine with Malabar and Travancore in order to form the Province of Kerala. This does not mean that the functions of my Family are abdicated; but necessarily they have to be modified to suit new circumstances. I believe in pure Constitutional Rule and throughout my life I have sedulously cultivated an attitude towards life and institutions which is antipathetic to autocracy and personal rule. Constitutional Rule has been the guiding principle of my Family and more especially so of my immediate predecessor, and in return we have had and I am having the loyalty and love of my Subjects in an unstinted measure. I am sure in future too this traditional attachment of my Subjects to my Family will never wane.

With these ideas in view and in order to ascertain how far my desire to bring into existence a Kerala Province will be shared or supported by the people of Malabar and the Progressive Ruler of Travancore I have asked my Diwan to initate discussions with the Government of Madras and with the Travancore Durbar. These talks and discussions obviously will have to precede the meeting of the final Constituent Assembly.

The only other point remaining to be considered is about the Constituent Assembly and the representation of Cochin in it. It has not been settled yet how many representatives Cochin could send to this Assembly. However to set at rest all doubts about the method of representation I am glad to announce that, after mature consideration, I have decided to allow the people to elect their representative or representatives. This election will be by the Council; but, as in the case of British Indian Provinces, the candidates may be chosen from anywhere and they need not be members of the Council. I hope the members will not allow petty motives and

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party squabbles to influence them in the selection of our representative or representatives. I have been watching the party politics of the State with great disappointment. The bewildering changes of party label by members of the Council show a lack of political education and laxity of principles, which augur ill for the future. Let me hope it is a passing phase. I am entrusting a grave responsibility to you in the firm belief that in your hands the prestige of my Family will be safe and that you will not do anything which will undermine the ultimate Constitutional Headship of my Dynasty. There need not be any conflict between a Constitutional Ruler and his Subjects. There is a lot which you and I can learn from the English. You may hate British Imperialism; but the sober Englishman is a subject worthy of study and his lack of political fads and fancies is worthy of copying if we want to build up strength.

Let me close this statement. I know the anxiety with which many of you have been awaiting it. I believe I have largely expressed sentiments which will find an echo in your hearts It is not all generations of men who get an opportunity to render service of such magnitude to their country and people. To those of you who are young here is the chance to forget self and work with united effort for the good of Kerala and India. It is something worth striving for and achieving. You have still a future before you and if success attends our efforts, you can honourably and happily live a life whose pattern you will have designed and constructed yourselves. To those of us who are old it is a great satisfaction to know that we are helping to build a future for Kerala and India which will inure to the benefit of posterity and the greatness of our country. For myself I thank God for vouchsafing me the opportunity to serve my people and my country in a manner which I hope will ultimately add to their strength and glory. I don't seek any reward except the fulfilment of the dream which I have been cherishing all these years—the UNIFICATION OF KERALA. That is all. May God bless our efforts".

Opening Speech by the President

Mr. President: *Honourable Members,*

The year that has passed since last I addressed the House has been marked by a number of events of more than usual significance. Very soon after the close of the last Budget Session came the end of the war against Japan. The transition from war to peace conditions has proved longer and more difficult than had been anticipated. The devastation caused both in Europe and in Asia has made recovery slow throughout the world. Here our difficulties due to short supplies of food and clothing have been increased by a certain degree of unemployment consequent on the discharge of men from war service and the cessation of military works. Prices moreover still remain high, and the cost of living shows no sign of falling.

Last December the whole State celebrated with enthusiastic affection the 80th birthday of His Highness the late Maharaja. But all too soon after that happy anniversary His Highness breathed his last and was succeeded as ruler by His present Highness, who marked his accession by the issue of a liberal statement announcing the immediate grant of further instalment of responsible Government, the creation of a Second Minister and the transfer to ministerial control of more departments including Municipalities, Medical, Registration, Anchal and Labour. The statement also looked forward to the time—not far distant—when the State might enjoy the benefits of full responsible Government, and inaugurated a system of consultation between the Diwan and the Ministers regarding the more important of the affairs of the State. His Highness believes that the time has now come to undertake an examination of the possibility of further advance and to this end he proposes to submit the whole of the Government of Cochin Act to examination in order that it may be so further amended as to permit further extension of the sphere of responsible government. A Committee has for the last few months been working out proposals for the widening of the franchise which must be the foundation of any effective development of democratic institutions.

The gracious message from His Highness which I have just had the honour to read demonstrates the close attention with which His Highness has been watching the constitutional discussions which have been taking place between the Cabinet Mission and political leaders in British India, and the keen desire which His Highness feels that this State should be able to play a worthy part in the independent India of the future. The formation of the Constituent Assembly brings to the fore a number of questions upon which it will be necessary for decisions to be taken; and it is His Highness' desire that in formulating opinion upon these questions representatives of the people of the State should share, and he is at present considering how best this desire may be translated into action.

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